

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, XF, GE, IS, EG, US

SUBJ: EGYPTAIN COMPLAINTS RE GENEVA WORKING GROUP

REF: STATE 225098 CAIRO 9363

1. I SAW RABIN AT 1600 TODAY--I.E. IMMEDIATELY AFTER CABINET MEETING. I TOLD PRIME MINISTER SECY HAD REQUESTED ME, IN FOLLOW-UP TO ATHERTON'S TALK WITH DINITZ, TO REVIEW WITH HIM CURRENT STAE OF PLAY IN GENEVA AND TO EXPLORE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO DEAL WITH ANGRY COMPLAINTS REGISTERED BY EGYPTAINS WITH EILTS IN CAIRO FRIDAY.

2. RABIN FELT IT WOULD BE USEFUL BACKDROP TO SUCH DISCUSSIONS IF HE WERE FIRST TO REPORT TO ME ON DECISION TAKEN AT TODAY'S CABINET MEETING. I AGREED. RABIN THEN SAID CABINET HAD DECIDED (1) TO INITIAL PROTOCOL WHEN AGREED REGARDLESS OF WHAT EGYPTAINS DID AND SIGN AFTER CONGRESS APPROVES AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SINAI; (2) TO ABIDE BY IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE IF CONGRESS ACTS BEFORE SEPT 30 ON UNDERSTANDING THAT IF CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS DELAYED ADJUSTMENT IN SCHEDULE WOULD BE REQUIRED(3) TO DELAYIMPLEMENTATION IF EGYPTIANS DO NOT PERMIT ISRAELI CARGO TO TRANSIT CANAL BEFOE OCT 5. RABIN SAID SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE-ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY NOT(3) WOULD BE INCLUDED IN PRESS STATEMENT ON CABINET MEETING TO BE ISSUED EARLY THIS EVENING.

3. WE THEN TURNED TO REVIEW OF WHERE THINGS STAND AT GENEVA.

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AS SUGGESTED IN TODAY'S HELPFUL MESSAGE FROM SAUNDERS, I

BEGAIN DISCUSSION BY MILDLY LAUDING ISRAELI BEHAVIOR IN WORKING GROUP AND NOTING OUR CONCERN AT PUZZLING AND UNHELPFUL ANTICS OF EGYPTAINS NEGOTIATORS IN RECENT DAYS. I TOLD RABIN THAT I FELT IT WOULD HELP HIM UNDERSTAND DEPTH OF OUR CONCERN IF HE WERE FULLY AND GRAPHICALLY BRIEFED ON EILTS FRIDAY MEETING WITH FAHMY, GAMASY, ET AL AT WHICH EGYPTAINS HAD AIRED WHOLE CATALOGUE OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND IN THE PROCESS WENT SO FAR AS TO ACCUSE US, AS WELL AS ISRAELIS OF BAD FAITH AND DECEPTION. I THEN HANDED RABIN CAIRO'S 9363 WHICH HE READ WITH CARE AND INTEREST, OCCASIONALLY SNORTING AT OUTRAGEOUSNESS OF SOME OF EGYPTIAN CLAIMS AND ACCUSATIONS.

4. AFTER READING CABLE, RABIN SAID HE HOPED I HAD NOT COME ALL THE WAY TO JERUSALEM TO ASK FOR MORE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS. HE FELT STRONGLY ISRAELIS HAD MET ALL THEIR COMMITMENTS BOTH UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND TO US PRIVATELY DURING LAST DAYS OF SHUTTLE AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO DO MORE. I SAID REGRETTABLY IT WAS PRECISELY THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT. TO ENLIST HIS HELP IN AVOIDING FURTHER DETERIORATION OF GENEVA MOOD AND THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE, WE FELT, BY MORE FORTHCOMING ISRAELI POSTURE ON KEY ISSUES CAUSING MOST RANCOR AT GENEVA. REFERRING APPROPRIATELY TO CAIRO'S 9363 AND GUIDED BY SUGGESTIONS CONVEYED BY SAUDNERS, I THEN OUTLINED IN APPROPRIATE DETAIL MOVES ON ABU RUDEIS INFRASTRUCTURE, RAS SUDAR TRANSFER, AND REDEPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN BUFFER ZONE WHICH WE FELT WOULD EASE SITUATION AND WOULD NOT BE COSTLY TO ISRAELIS.

5. RABIN WAS BY NO MEANS HAPPY AT MY PRESENTATION REITERATED HIS IMPATIENCE AT OUR FREQUENT APPEALS FOR ISRAELI CONCESSIONS, AND COUNSELED US TO BE LESS CONCERNED BY EGYPTIANS BEHAVIOR.

6. RE ABU RUDEIS, THE ASID ISSUE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE CABINET MEETING AND IT HAD BEEN AGREED OIL FIELDS SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO EGYPTAINS IN "OPERATING CONDITION". INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT HAD JUST BEEN TELEPHONED TO GAZIT IN GENEVA, AND RABIN FELT AS RESULT THERE SHOULD BE IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE AT MEETING TODAY.

7. I ASKED IF DECISION MEANT THAT ISRAELIS WOULD LEAVE BEHIND ALL
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EQUIPMENT EITHER INHERITED IN 1967 OR SINCE INSTALLED BY ISRAELIS AS REPLACEMENT FOR EQUIPMENT THEN ON HAND. RABIN THREW UP HIS HANDS AND SAID WE SHOULD LEAVE SUCH DETAILS TO THE TECHNICIANS, HE WAS SURE THAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE WORKED OUT TO SATISFACTION OF EGYPTIANS, IF NOT TODAY THEN IN NEXT DAY OR SO.

IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, HE SAID(1) THERE WOULD BE GUARANTEED WATER SUPPLY TO OIL FIELDS,(2) HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH MATAARMA-

ASI WELLS PROBLEM BUT FELT TECHNICIANS COULD RESOLVE QUESTION OF WHETHER THESE SHOULD BE CAPPED OR NOT; AND(3) UNDER NO CONDITIONS TO MEET THESE OR OTHER PROBLEMS WOULD THERE BE ANY CHANGE IN LINE M.

8. RE RAS SUDAR, RABIN DOUBTED IF COMPLEX PROBLEM OF REMOVING AMMUNITION AND MATERIAL FROM AREA(AS DISCUSSED BY GUR DURING SHUTTLE) WOULD PERMIT TRANSFER EARLIER THAN AGREED DATE--NOV 16. HE WOULD , HOWEVER, CHECK WITH MILITARY AND LET ME KNOW SOONEST.

9. RE REDPLOYMENT IN NORTH, RABIN WAS ADAMANT. ISRAELIS, HE SAID, HAD GONE AS FAR AS THEY COULD GO. THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT NO FURTHER CHANGES IN TIMETABLE. IN FACT, THERE MIGHT BE SLIPPAGE IF CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL DELAYED OR CARGO SUEZ TRANSIT NOT CONSUMMATED BY OCT 5 AS AFFIRMED AT CABINET MEETING AND DISCUSSED EARLIER IN OUR CONVERSATION.

10. RABIN THEN BRIEFLY TICKED OFF ADDITIONAL ISSUES ON WHICH HE FORESAW DIFFICULTIES AT GENEVA-(1) NUMBER OF POLICE IN SOUTHERN SALIENT,(2) CIVILIAN RESIDENTS IN NORTHERN BUFFER ZONE- EGYPTAINS, HE SAID, WANT 7000 RETURNED, IF(4-3)8 28)) -&433 59 1000-2000 IF CAREFULLY SCREENED BY UNEF, AND(3) TERMS FOR OPERATION OF JOINT COMMISSION. I MADE NO COMMENT EXCEPT TO EXPRESS THE VIEW THAT THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD BE MANAGEABLE WITHOUT HIGH-LEVEL INTERCESSION.

11. COMMENT: I THINK WE HAVE GONE AS FAR AS WE CAN WITH RABIN. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES-MANY OF WHOM HAVE SPOKEN TO ME OVER PAST WEEK--ARE CONCERNED AT WHAT THEY REGARD AS EGYPTIAN MALFEASANCE--BOTH AT GENEVA WHERE IT IS FELT EGYPTAINS SEEK TO CHANGE TERMS PREVIOUSLY AGREED AND IN CAIRO WHERE
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THEY HAVE RENEGED ON CARGO COMMITMENT AND GIVE LITTLE INDICATION OF EARLY COMPLIANCE. I AM OF COURSE PREPARED TO HAVE ANOTHER GO AT RABIN, BUT I DOUBT IF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL. PERHAPS, WE SHOULD LEAVE THE PROBLEM NOW WITH THE NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA WHOSE NERVES MAY BE BETTER THAN THOSE IN CAPITALS. THIS WAS CLEARLY RABIN'S ADVICE TODAY.

12. DEPT REPEAT CAIRO AND GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS.
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